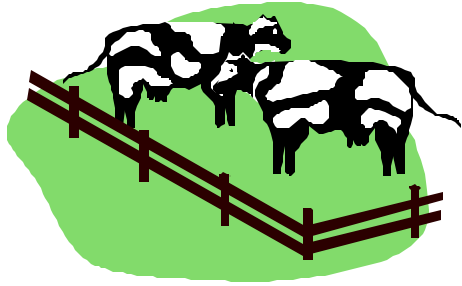


Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

Forage Provisions



What is the Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program?

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally-funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available.

NAP is authorized by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, as amended by the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000.

NAP Forage Provisions

Beginning with the 2001 crop year, NAP forage provisions have been significantly

changed to simplify the payment calculation and be more equitable.

Eligible Forage

Eligible forage is vegetation consisting of annual, biennial, and perennial grasses, legumes, small grains, etc., produced in a commercial operation for animal consumption or for seed for the propagation of eligible forage crops. This includes grazed forage and mechanically-harvested forage crops.

Eligible Producer

An eligible producer is a person who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. Producers whose qualifying gross income for the previous year exceeds \$2 million are not eligible.

Eligible Disaster Conditions

Damaging weather, such as drought and excessive moisture.

Other Eligibility Issues

Forage produced on any federal- or state-owned lands is eligible only if the acreage is mechanically seeded at least every seven years.

Applicants who obtain only the right to graze as opposed to leasing or renting acreage are not eligible on that acreage. For example, leases which are based on AUMs (Animal unit months).

Application for Coverage

You **must** apply for NAP coverage:

- on form CCC-471 by September 1 of the preceding year (Exceptions: 2001 and 2002 crop years);
- pay the non-refundable service fees of \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county, and not to exceed \$900 total. Waivers are available for limited resource producers.

Important Dates

Grazed Forage

- Application Closing Date: *September 1* of the preceding year (Exception for 2001 and 2002 crop years);
- Acreage Report: *October 1* of the preceding year;
- Notice of Loss: *Within 15 days* after the date the disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent.

Mechanically-harvested forage crops

- Application Deadline: *September 1*
- Acreage Report: *July 15*;
- Production Report: *September 1* of the following year;
- Notice of Loss: *Within 15 days* after the date the disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent.

General Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for NAP you must:

- file form CCC-471 to apply for coverage
- pay the applicable service fees;
- timely report acreage and production (if applicable);
- file other eligibility forms, as required;
- provide notice of loss to your FSA office within 15 days after the date the disaster condition occurred or damage to the crop became apparent.

Note: Failure to meet any program requirement or deadline may result in ineligibility.

Requesting Payment

When requesting payment for loss or prevented planting due to disaster conditions, you must sign Part E of form CCC-576. The deadline for application for payment is the subsequent year's application closing date for the crop.

Note: Payments are limited to \$100,000 per "person."

Determining Your Level of Coverage

For mechanically-harvested crops, your eligibility for NAP assistance is based on the Actual Production History (APH) of each unit. The APH is a yield which reflects the proven history of producing the crop (based on acceptable production records), or a percentage of the expected yield for the

county. Losses exceeding 50 percent of your APH will be covered. Payments are based on 55 percent of the average market price for the crop.

For grazed forage, eligibility for NAP assistance is based on loss percentages determined by the local FSA County Committee for each type of pasture/range in the county. If the overall loss on your unit exceeds 50 percent you will be eligible for benefits.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. For grazed forage applications, do producers still have to provide animal counts and the amount of supplemental feed?

No. The payment calculation is simply based on acreage, the carrying capacity, and the loss percentage.

2. Do producers have to actually graze the land to be eligible?

No. However, there must have been an intent to graze or otherwise harvest the forage acreage.

3. Can the fee be paid after the application closing date?

No. However, there is an exception for 2001 and 2002 crop years

4. Are bale records which are kept in a notebook acceptable to establish a yield history for hay crops?

Yes, as long as the County Committee determines these records as acceptable and they support the producer's certification.

5. What is the expected yield for a hay crop if a first-time applicant is unable to provide acceptable production records to support a yield certification?

The expected yield for your crop will be 65 percent of the county average yield

6. Will the payments cover the cost of hay purchases?

Not necessarily. The payments are only intended to provide limited benefits to help mitigate catastrophic losses.

For more information, call or visit your nearest County FSA Office.